the teachers who were present, 59.5% were found to be teaching in class. The Government of India conducted an independent study in 2006-07 which has revealed an average national teacher attendance rate of 80%.

(b) Government of India has advised States to monitor teacher attendance in elementary schools and put in place mechanisms to improve teacher presence and accountability. Emphasis has been given on the role of Village Education Committees or local bodies in monitoring and supervision of schools including attendance of teachers.

(c) The NASSCOM-McKinsey Report, 2005 on 'Extending India's Leadership of the Global IT and BPO Industries' states that only about 25% of technical graduates and 10-15% of general college graduates are suitable for employment in the offshore IT and BPO industries respectively.

(d) Under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, several activities have been undertaken to improve the quality of elementary education and enhance learning achievement levels of students. This includes recruitment of about 7.9 lakh additional teachers to improve the pupil teacher ratio, in-service training of teachers for a period of 20 days each year, free distribution of textbooks for primary and upper primary classes to about 6.3 crore SC, ST and girl students, regular academic support to primary and upper primary schools through 6700 Block Resource Centres (BRCs) and 66000 Cluster Resource Centres (CRCs), regular evaluation of students and monitoring of school performance.

Supreme Court bench at Nagpur

1577. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:
SHRI GIREESH KUMAR SANGHI:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government, in fulfilment of its avowed objective to bring governance and speedy delivery of justice to the doorsteps of Aam Aadmi, would consider setting up a bench of the Supreme Court at Nagpur – a most-centrally located fastgrowing city in the country;

(b) if so, whether this would also result in liquidating huge arrears of cases in the Supreme Court and simultaneously ensuring quick disposal of newly filed cases; and

(c) by when such a step is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) According to Article 130 of the Constitution, "the Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint." The matter of setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi has been taken up, with successive Chief Justices. The Chief Justice of India as well as the Full Court have been consistently opposed to the proposal for the setting up of the Benches of the Supreme Court in other regions of the country. The Chief Justice of India has last conveyed on 12.08.2007 that the matter was discussed in a Full Court meeting of

Hon'ble Judges on 7th August, 2007 but Full Court did not favour setting up of Benches of the Supreme Court outside Delhi. However, Advocate-on-Record or a petitioner-in-person can file cases in the Supreme Court of India through Internet.

Voters' lists

1578. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are separate voters' lists for elections to Assembly, Parliament and local bodies like Panchayats and Nagar Palikas;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government would take steps to ensure single voters' lists for all the elections; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission of India maintains voters' list for elections to the House of the People and States' Legislative Assemblies. Most of the States, however, have their separate voter lists for their local bodies' elections as presently there is no provision in the Constitution/laws for a common voter list for all these elections.

(c) The Government has received suggestions for a common voter list for all these elections, which is, however, possible to implement only if all the State Governments agree for it and make suitable amendments in their respective State laws.

(d) Does not arise.

Compulsory voting

1579. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to amend the laws to make voting by all the eligible voters compulsory;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) by when the necessary amendments would be made and the reasons for the delay, if any, in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.